United States Department of Agriculture | **Forest Service** | **Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry** | **180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101**

File Code: 3410 (NA-03-04)
Date: March 12, 2003

Subject: New Exotic Beetle

To: Mary O'Brien Reddan, Forest Supervisor
Wayne National Forest

A new exotic beetle the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), *Agrilus planipennis* (Coleoptera: Buprestidae) was found in 2002 killing ash (*Fraxinus* spp.) trees in Detroit, Michigan; Windsor, Ontario; and Toledo, Ohio. The larva of this insect feeds in the phloem and outer sapwood, creating galleries that eventually kill the tree. This insect has already killed millions of ash trees in southeastern Michigan both in urban and natural woodland settings and should be considered a very significant threat to ash resources.

To date, this insect appears to be limited to the Detroit and Toledo vicinity; however, the potential for movement outside that area is great. The abundance of dead trees and subsequent tree cutting is creating an enormous amount of firewood. Movement of infested ash firewood could introduce EAB into previously unaffected areas. Therefore, any recreation area with visitors from southeastern Michigan or northwestern Ohio could be the unsuspecting host of a new EAB infestation.

We have enclosed a copy of our EAB pest alert that describes the insect and the type of damage that it causes. We ask that you give this document wide distribution and encourage your staff to become familiar with this insect and its associated damage. We would like you to inform all recreation staff, including seasonal employees that work in campgrounds, since we believe that heavily used recreation areas have a high probability of becoming infested. Additional copies of the pest alert are available by contacting Helen Wassick at 304-285-1527 or by using the forest insect and disease link on your forest intranet site at: http://www.fs.fed.us/na/morgantown/fhp/nfid/.

The EAB has the potential to become a major forest pest of ash in the eastern United States. However, through awareness and early detection, the impact of any new infestation can be minimized. If you find dead or dying ash trees that you suspect may be infested with EAB, please call Richard Turcotte at 304-285-1544, or send an email to rturcotte@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. HAZEL
Field Representative
Forest Health Protection
Enclosures
Cc:
District Ranger, Ironton RD w/enclosures
District Ranger, Athens RD w/enclosures

RMT